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19 February 1957

GWH

ATTN: RANDUM FOR: Director of Logistics

SUBJECT : Functional Furniture

REFERENCE : Memo dtd 15 Feb 57 to DD/S fr D/Log, same subject.

1. The referenced staff study, which I have approved, indicates the impracticability of finalizing our conclusions and recommendations until the size, shape, and occupancy of our proposed new building have been determined. I recognize that these difficulties exist; however, decisions in connection therewith should be reached shortly and I wish to emphasize to you and to the Building Planning Staff the necessity of making determinations with regard to this furniture in sufficient time to incorporate our request for funds in the Fiscal Year 1959 Budget, if in fact it is finally decided to proceed in this direction.

2. I am also concerned as to the apparent cost of the modular furniture under consideration as compared to the standard Class "C" wooden furniture, and at the moment I don't fully understand how it can be shown that "the availability of this furniture would represent an over-all saving to the Government by eliminating the need for GSA to procure furniture in the amount of this inventory" if in fact the modular furniture would cost approximately \$1,000,000 more than comparable standard wooden furniture. Every possible effort should be made to procure the functional furniture at prices comparable to that which the General Services Administration would have to pay for standard furniture. I have some doubts as to the salability of an argument based on "more effective space utilization, efficiency, and functional practicability, particularly in terms of the general uselessness and security hazards of desk drawers," if in fact we can't actually support it by stating that such procurement eventually would result in a net saving to the Government.

15/
L. K. White
Deputy Director
(Support)

1 Att: Referenced Memorandum (Orig.)

cc: DD/P

DD/I

D/Sec; Comp; D/Agmt; Lt; BPS